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NON-PAPER ON FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A  
JOINT INTERNATIONAL-AFRICAN INITIATIVE ON RWANDA

RQ10B

- o France has proposed a multinational force, under UN auspices, to intervene in Rwanda as soon as possible to protect threatened civilians until the regular UNAMIR contingents can arrive. The French have asked several African and other countries to participate along with the French.
- o The mandate of the force would be the same as that of the expanded UNAMIR -- to help protect populations at risk. The force would serve only as a "bridge" pending arrival of expanded UNAMIR. Like UNAMIR, it would not attempt to interpose itself between the two warring parties.
- o There is an immediate need to stop the killings in Rwanda. This must be our first priority. For this reason, we support the French proposal, which offers the possibility to bring very rapid protection to civilian populations.
- o We want the mission to have the sanction of the UN and to be fully coordinated with UNAMIR. Our preference is to have a Security Council resolution authorizing the mission.
- o We are aware of the RPF's concerns over French intervention. However, this is a multilateral effort and the purpose is to protect civilians and save lives, not to intervene in the fighting between government forces and the RPF or to support the government or its forces.
- o The French are consulting with the RPF and other interested parties. We have encouraged these consultations and would like to see the force win the acceptance of all relevant players.
- o We are willing to provide logistics and equipment for the initiative, but U.S. troops would not be involved in the operation.
- o In the meantime, we are working with the UN to accelerate deployment of expanded UNAMIR. We have completed a lease with the UN for 50 Armored Personnel Carriers [APC's] and plan to start delivery next week.
- o We are working on other equipment requests for UNAMIR now and are willing to provide logistical support as well.

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